

Message From The Artist



For me, art making is an exciting process. Each brushstroke or layering of object inspires the next. I follow the natural ebb and flow of dye on silk or the resistance of acrylic on canvas, leading me to unexpected terrain, both visually and emotionally. By playing with the rhythm and energy of color, markings and spontaneous expression, my hope is to capture a sort of ‘visual poetry’ that conveys those aspects of our humanity that are sensual, evocative and universal.

Rather than holding tightly to shapes, ideas or pre-conceived color stories, I let go to the process. On silk, the build-up of dye creates unexpected patterns; colors drip spread and blend; and surprises are endless because silk is so absorbent and the dye moves rapidly. On canvas, I follow the lead of the brushstroke or the inspiration of precious objects and fabrics. The results are always unpredictable, but it is a delight to reach a place that is resolutely color-washed, spacious, and dynamic; a place that evokes a sense of beauty, touches the spirit, or moves us to say ‘I feel so alive in this moment.’

I am drawn to organic lines and shapes, and also to intense and unusual color combinations that strike a deep, hidden chord with the senses and subconscious mind. Much of my most current work explores the tension between one’s odyssey for something quieter and more contemplative and the opposing energy of the urban landscape. Bold geometric and vertical markings are at times layered with other materials and inkjet prints on silk to unfold the notion of an Urban Zen.

My vision is twofold: 1) to extend the rich tradition of painting on silk into a vibrant, contemporary art form. I push the boundaries to bring a modern

sensibility to this ancient discipline. 2) to create works on other medium that emits the ecstasy and lyricism of paint/dye as it moves in multiple directions.

My inspiration comes from a number of places – from nature and my own spiritual exploration, to the textures, colors and earthiness of ethnic textiles, or fine crafts like pottery or blown glass. My work on silk can come off the walls and into the living space – brightening up a lonely corner, visually separating two rooms, or billowing across a ceiling to soften and anchor the entire space. The effect on the emotional and design-scape can be dramatic.

–ellen brook